



LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

May 11, 2011

BOARD PRESENT: Amir, Bailey, Brodsky, Bryant, Lewis, O., Neuman, Riccardi, Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Parker Hamilton, Director; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Arthur Wallenstein, Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.

The Library Board meeting was convened by Chair Brodsky at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes from the April 13, 2011 meeting were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Gail Bailey will be retiring after 43 in education, with ten of those years with the Montgomery County Public School System. Interviews for her replacement will take place in the next few weeks. One of the roles of Dr. Bailey's replacement will be serving as the Ex-officio School Board Representative.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Department is currently working on **budget** negotiations and questions. There were many questions that arose as a result of advocacy efforts.

All of the **issues** brought up at the April Board meeting have been addressed. Dr. Amir, the Agency Manager for Quince Orchard and the Quince Orchard LAC chair have connected via email. The newspapers have been collected from in front of Olney Library, and the vendors have been notified to stop delivery of the periodicals. The information regarding the Gaithersburg and Olney renovations has been updated on the website.

A complaint was received regarding possible vandalism at the **Olney** Library. Library and Department of General Services (DGS) staff had just gone out and collected periodicals, picked up trash and taken down the flag. Matt Zaborsky, Greater Olney Civic Association president, reported there were broken windows at Olney; cracked windows were found. A decision was made to put a fence up around the building. A fence will be erected around the Gaithersburg Library as well. The Department of Police will be doing some canine training at Olney; hopefully this will be a deterrent. DGS staff have been asked to check on the Olney and Gaithersburg library buildings when in the areas.

Between June 1 and June 15 some **policy changes** and new policies will be put into affect. Customers who owe \$25 or more are currently blocked from checking out books and placing holds, but can still use the Internet. One of the policy changes will prevent these customers from being able to access the Internet on Libraries' public PCs.

Another policy change will require customers to renew their accounts annually. All fines must be cleared from their accounts before they can be renewed. If they do not update/renew their accounts, they will not be able to use the library. There is a huge problem with customers owing Libraries money.

One dollar charge for unpicked up holds will also go into affect. Customers have ten (10) days to pick up holds. Sirsi allows customers to suspend holds due to vacations.

Question: What is the overdue fee? Has that been increased?

Answer: The overdue fine for adult books is 35¢ per day and 10¢ per day for children's books. These have not been increased.

The fine structure on the website lists the fine for an overdue MC Express book as 35¢ per day. It should be 50¢ per day. This will be brought to the next Board meeting for correction.

All fines collected go to the County's general fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Office of the County Executive posted the advertisement for the three (3) **Board vacancies**; only four (4) applications were received. A request was made to have it re-advertised. Depending on when the advertisement goes out, the closing date will be either May 30 or June 1.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Council's Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee voted to put money on the reconciliation list for Libraries. Other Council committees have also put money on the reconciliation list. The current total on the reconciliation list is approximately \$32M.

Libraries will be before the full Council on May 16 at 9:00 a.m. On May 19, the Council will address the reconciliation list. The final vote on the FY12 budget will be on May 26 (legally, Council has until June 1 to vote on the budget).

On **June 3**, the Department will kick off its celebration of **60 years** of delivering excellent service to Montgomery County residents. County Executive Leggett and Councilmember Marc Elrich will attend. Certificates of appreciation, LAC awards, Gilchrist awards and staff awards will be presented. This is a way to thank those who have helped MCPL this past year. The event will be from 7:00-9:00 p.m. There will be a dessert reception with the formal program beginning at 7:30 p.m. Board members should encourage all LAC members to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The announcement for the **LAC Awards** was sent out with the closing date of May 2. Five applications were submitted; three for the Member(s) of the Year Award and two for the Ablard Award. Three of the members on the Committee have recused themselves from voting on the submissions. Robyn Watts was asked to join the Committee to help make the selections. The

Committee would like to have all selections completed by May 16. Jill Lewis sent the submitted applications to all the Committee members as an email attachment.

Otto Lewis, Kay Bowman (Branch Manager, Bethesda Library), and Diane Cockrell (Montgomery College, Germantown) visited Congressman Van Hollen's office yesterday for National Library Legislative Day. The group met with Mr. Van Hollen's legislative assistant and discussed the need for federal funding for libraries. Diane Cockrell has worked with the Upcounty Library Network.

LAC INFORMATION/LAC UPDATES:

The **LAC application** for the Davis Library has been approved unanimously.

Poolesville LAC held their annual poster contest; it was well received. The awards program was last night. The LAC is deciding if they should meet during the summer.

The **Germantown LAC** is looking for the LAC brochure. They are in need of members. The branch manager of Germantown is retiring.

Quince Orchard LAC has been very active sending out post cards during this budget session. They are competing for an LAC award.

Chair Brodsky stated that the cards and letters from the LACs and patrons should keep coming to push this over the finish line.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Art Wallenstein, Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, is a very new member of the FOLMC Board. The FOLMC has done a lot of advocacy work for the Library Department. The Library Board has been very visible; they should pat themselves on the back for a job well done. Libraries is competing with all the other Departments and MCPS. The word has gotten out; the publicity has been positive. It is important not to make the advocacy personal.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

B. Parker Hamilton, Director